

DETAILED ACTION

This communication is responsive to a telephonic interview on 11/13/09 regarding the Amendment filed 07/27/09.

Claims 1-6, 23-47 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 30-32, 41-42, 47 are independent claims.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicant's representative, Mr. Douglass Thomas, on November 13, 2009.

Cancel claims 24-26, 34-37

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of retrieving digital media comprising:

querying a server for database enumeration;

receiving a response to the database enumeration query that includes at least information about at least one digital media database coupled to the server, wherein the information about the at least one digital media database includes at least metadata about one or more remote records within the at least one digital media database, and

wherein the one or more remote records pertain to one or more of digital media, digital media metadata or media collection data;

using the metadata to effectively provide a first representation of the one or more remote records;

querying the server for information required to populate one or more local records associated with the metadata after receiving the metadata;

receiving the information required to populate the one or more local records associated with the metadata in response to the querying of the server;

populating the one or more local records after receiving the information required to populate the one or more local records, thereby effectively providing one or more populated records based on the metadata associated with the one or more remote records;

using the one or more populated records to effectively provide a second representation of the one or more remote records; and

subsequently retrieving digital media associated with at least one of the populated records,

wherein the one or more local records are part of a local database, and wherein said populating of the one or more local records operates to replicate at least a portion of the digital media database to the local database, and

wherein the first representation provides a first level of detail with respect to the one or more remote records, wherein the second representation provides a second

level of detail with respect to the one or more remote records, and wherein the second level of detail represents the one or more records in greater detail than the first level of detail.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the remote records pertain to both digital media metadata and media collections and multiple queries are required to populate the local records associated with the metadata.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising using a local database management system to manage the information contained in the local records of the local database, the local records including media collection data records and digital media metadata records.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the server is a remote device accessible across a network, and wherein said method further comprises:

 querying the server for media collection enumeration with respect to the at least one digital media database; and

 receiving a response to the media collection enumeration query that includes at least information about one or more media collections.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein, said retrieving of the digital media comprises:

requesting media from across a network; and

receiving the requested media across the network.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising presenting the received media at a client device, wherein presenting the received media includes playing the media for a user.

7-22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the one or more populated records effectively provide a representation of the one or more remote records.

24-26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 [[24]],

wherein the first representation represents the one or more remote records in accordance with a first aspect of representation; and

wherein the second representation represents the one or more remote records in accordance with a second aspect of representation that is different than the first aspect of representation.

28. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 ~~[[24]]~~, wherein said method further comprises:

querying the server for information required to provide a third representation of the one or more remote records.

29. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 ~~[[24]]~~, wherein said method further comprises:

querying the server for information required to further populate the at least one record in order to effectively provide a third representation of the one or more remote records.

30. (Currently Amended) A computing system for retrieving digital media, wherein said computing system comprises:

a processing unit configured to provide at least:

means for querying a server for database enumeration;

means for receiving a response to the database enumeration query that includes at least information about at least one digital media database coupled to the server, wherein the information about the at least one digital media database includes at least metadata about one or more remote records within the at least one digital media database, wherein the metadata effectively represents the one or more remote records as a first representation, and wherein the one or more remote records pertain to one or more of digital media, digital media metadata or media collection data;

means for querying the server for information required to populate one or more local records associated with the metadata after receiving the metadata;

means for receiving the information required to populate the one or more local records associated with the metadata in response to the querying of the server;

means for populating the one or more local records after receiving the information required to populate the one or more local records, thereby effectively providing one or more populated records based on the metadata associated with the one or more remote records, wherein the one or more populated records effectively represents the one or more remote records as a second representation;

means for subsequently retrieving digital media associated with at least one of the populated records,

wherein the one or more local records are part of a local database, and wherein said means for populating of the one or more local records operates to replicate at least a portion of the digital media database to the local database, and

wherein the first representation provides a first level of detail with respect to the one or more remote records, wherein the second representation provides a second level of detail with respect to the one or more remote records, and wherein the second level of detail represents the one or more records in greater detail than the first level of detail.

31. (Currently Amended) A server for providing digital media to one or more devices, wherein said server comprises:

a processing unit configured to provide at least:

means for receiving a query from a device for database enumeration;

means for sending the features of the server to the device in response to the query, the features including enumeration data about at least one digital media database, wherein the information about the at least one digital media database includes at least metadata about one or more records within the at least one digital media database, wherein the metadata can be used by the device to locally present one or more local records at the device as a first local presentation of at least a portion of the at least one digital media database, and wherein the records pertain to one or more of digital media, digital media metadata or media collection data;

means for receiving a querying from the device for information required by the device to populate the one or more local records associated with the first local presentation;

means for sending the device information required to populate the one or more local records associated with the first local presentation, thereby allowing the device to populate the one or more local records after receiving the information required to populate the one or more local records in order to present the one or more local records as one or more populated records;

means for receiving a subsequent query from the device regarding at least one of the one or more populated records; and

means for sending digital media associated with the at least one populated record after receiving the second query from the device,

wherein the one or more local records are part of a local database provided at the device, and wherein population of the one or more local records at the device operates to replicate at least a portion of the digital media database to the local database,

wherein the one or more populated records can be used to locally present the portion of the at least one digital media database at the device as a second local presentation, and

wherein the first local presentation provides a first level of detail with respect to the one or more populated records, wherein the second local presentation provides a second level of detail with respect to the one or more populated records, and wherein the second level of detail represents the one or more records in greater detail than the first level of detail.

32. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium including at least executable computer program code tangibly stored thereon for retrieving digital media, comprising:

computer program code for querying a server for database enumeration;

computer program code for receiving a response to the database enumeration query that includes at least information about at least one digital media database, wherein the information about the at least one digital media database includes at least metadata about one or more remote records within the at least one digital media database, wherein the metadata effectively represents the one or more remote records as a first representation, and wherein the one or more remote records pertain to one or more of digital media, digital media metadata or media collection data, the metadata being used to effectively provide a first representation of the one or more remote records;

computer program code for querying the server, based on the metadata, for information required to populate one or more of the local records associated with the metadata after receiving the metadata;

computer program code for receiving the information required to populate the one or more of the local records associated with the metadata in response to the querying of the server;

computer program code for populating the one or more local records after receiving the information required to populate the one or more local records, thereby effectively providing one or more populated records based on the metadata associated with the one or more remote records, the one or more populated records being used to effectively provide a second representation of the one or more remote records; and

computer program code for retrieving digital media associated with at least one of the populated records based on the populated one or more records,

wherein the one or more local records are part of a local database, and wherein said computer program code for populating of the one or more local records operates to replicate at least a portion of the digital media database to the local database, and

wherein the first representation provides a first level of detail with respect to the one or more remote records, wherein the second representation provides a second level of detail with respect to the one or more remote records, and wherein the second level of detail represents the one or more records in greater detail than the first level of detail.

33. (Previously Presented) A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 32, wherein the remote records pertain to both digital media metadata and media collections and multiple queries are required to populate the local records associated with the metadata.

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34-37. (Canceled).

38. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 32 [[34]],

wherein the first representation represents the one or more remote records in accordance with a first aspect of representation; and

wherein the second representation represents the one or more remote records in accordance with a second aspect of representation that is different than the first aspect of representation.

39. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 32 [[34]], wherein the computer readable medium further comprises:

computer program code for querying the server for information required to provide a third representation of one or more remote records.

40. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 32 [[34]], wherein the computer readable medium further comprises:

computer program code for querying the server for information required to further populate the one or more local records in order to effectively provide a third representation of the one or more remote records.

41. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium including at least executable computer program code tangibly stored thereon for providing digital media to one or more devices, wherein said computer readable medium comprises:

computer program code for receiving a query from a device for database enumeration;

computer program code for sending the features of the server to the device in response to the query, the features including enumeration data about at least one digital media database, wherein the information about the at least one digital media database includes at least metadata about one or more records within the at least one digital media database, wherein the metadata can be used by the device to locally present one or more local records at the device as a first local presentation of at least a portion of the at least one digital media database, and wherein the records pertain to one or more of digital media, digital media metadata or media collection data;

computer program code for receiving a querying from the device for information required by the device to populate the one or more local records associated with the first local presentation;

computer program code for sending the device information required to populate the one or more records associated with the first local presentation, thereby allowing the device to populate the one or more local records after receiving the information required to populate the one or more local records in order to present the one or more local records as one or more populated records;

computer program code for receiving a subsequent query from the device regarding at least one of the one or more populated records; and

computer program code for sending digital media associated with the at least one populated record after receiving the second query from the device,

wherein the one or more local records are part of a local database, and wherein the population of the one or more local records at the device operates to replicate at least a portion of the digital media database to the local database,

wherein the one or more populated records can be used to locally present the portion of the at least one digital media database at the device as a second local presentation, and

wherein the first local presentation provides a first level of detail with respect to the one or more remote records, wherein the second local presentation provides a second level of detail with respect to the one or more remote records, and wherein the second level of detail represents the one or more records in greater detail than the first level of detail.

42. (Currently Amended) A computing device comprising:

a processor;

memory, operably connected with the processor;

wherein the processor is operable to perform instructions including

connecting to a server, the server including media information;

querying the server for at least a portion of the media information;

receiving media information responsive to the query;

requesting at least one media item associated with the media information responsive to the query; and

receiving the media item,

wherein said querying includes a plurality of distinct queries to the server, and

wherein said querying includes at least:

querying the server for database enumeration; and

wherein said receiving of the media information includes a plurality of distinct responses to the queries, and wherein said receiving includes at least:

receiving a response to the database enumeration query that includes descriptive information on at least one remote database, the descriptive information including how much media is available from the at least one remote database or how many media collections are available from the at least one remote database or both,

wherein said method further includes at least:

receiving the information required to populate the one or more of the local records associated with the metadata in response to the querying of the server;

populating the one or more local records after receiving the information required to populate the one or more local records, thereby effectively providing one or more populated records based on the metadata associated with the one or more remote records; and

retrieving digital media associated with at least one of the populated records based on the populated one or more records,

wherein the one or more local records are part of a local database, and wherein by population of the one or more local records, at least a portion of the remote database is replicated to the local database,

wherein the metadata being used to effectively provide a first representation of the one or more remote records, wherein the one or more populated records being used to effectively provide a second representation of the one or more remote records, and

wherein the first representation provides a first level of detail with respect to the one or more remote records, wherein the second representation provides a second level of detail with respect to the one or more remote records, and wherein the second level of detail represents the one or more records in greater detail than the first level of detail.

43. (Previously Presented) The computing device of claim 42,

wherein said querying includes at least:

querying the server for media collection enumeration, and

wherein said receiving includes at least:

receiving a response to the media collection enumeration query that includes descriptive information on at least one media collection available from the at least one database.

44. (Previously Presented) The computing device of claim 42,

wherein said querying includes at least:

querying the server for server capabilities, and

wherein said receiving includes at least:

receiving a response to the server capabilities query that describes the server capabilities.

45. (Previously Presented) The computing device of claim 42, wherein querying the server for at least a portion of the media information includes at least a request for an enumeration of at least a portion of the media collections.

46. (Previously Presented) A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 32, further comprising:

computer program code for determining whether the digital media database has been updated since the one or more local records were populated from information provided by the digital media database.

47. (Previously Presented) A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 46, wherein said computer program code for determining whether the digital media database has been updated comprises:

computer program code for updating to a current revision indicator whenever the digital media database is modified;

computer program code for comparing the current revision indicator to a client-provided revision indicator, the client-provided revision indicator being provided with a request being received from a client, the request pertaining to the at least one digital media database and including a client-provided revision indicator; and

computer program code for responding to the request with a response that includes at least an identification of the current revision indicator if the client-provided revision indicator did not match the current revision indicator.

Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Claims 1-6, 23, 27-33, 38-47 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The present invention is directed to a method for accessing media access across network wherein a client requests information from a server so the client can create a local representation of the server's database and manage the media information locally.

All independent claims 1, 30-32, 41-42, 47 recite, or similarly recite, in combination with the remaining elements, wherein the one or more local records are part of a local database, and wherein by population of the one or more local records, at least a portion of the remote database is replicated to the local database, wherein the metadata being used to effectively provide a first representation of the one or more remote records, wherein the one or more populated records being used to effectively provide a second representation of the one or more remote records, and

wherein the first representation provides a first level of detail with respect to the one or more remote records, wherein the second representation provides a second level of detail with respect to the one or more remote records, and wherein the second level of detail represents the one or more records in greater detail than the first level of detail.

The closest prior art, Drosset et al (US 6,662,231) shows a substantially method for subscriber-based audio service over a communication network. However, Drossert, still fails to anticipate the above cited limitations.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Miranda Le whose telephone number is (571) 272-4112. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James K. Trujillo, can be reached on (571) 272-3677. The fax number to this Art Unit is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Miranda Le/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2159